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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Serial No.: 09/761,792 Examiner: Vinh P. Nguyen

Filing Date: January 17, 2001 Group Art Unit: 2829

Inventor: Quanmin C. Su and William I. Russell

For: *Method And Apparatus For Reducing The Parachuting Of A Probe*

Docket No. 528.014

REQUEST TO APPROVE DRAWING CHANGES

Director of the U.S. Patent
and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Applicant submits herewith two sheets of drawings with red ink markings showing the proposed changes to Figures 1 and 2 for which the approval of the Examiner is requested. Figure 1 has been amended to illustrate the multiplier 590 shown in Figure 5 (support for which may be found at page 11, lines 13-16, for example), and the displacement detector 105 (support for which can be found at page 8, lines 5-10). Note that reference number 105 is being added to the specification via the Reply being filed concurrently herewith.

Next, the support for the cantilever drive signal shown in amended Figure 1 can be found at page 11, lines 13-16, and at page 6. Moreover, the support for the line electrically coupling the displacement detector 105 to signal control module 150 is at page 8, lines 5-10.

With respect to Figure 2, the phase detection circuit," now designated with reference numeral 212 (as amended into the specification via the Reply being filed on even date herewith), is now illustrated as part of detection circuit 210, both of which are discussed at page 9, lines 8-17.

No new matter has been added, support for each of the items being added is as set forth above. Moreover, one skilled in the AFM art would understand that an AFM configured as shown in amended Figure 1 is a correct representation of detecting deflection in an AFM employing an oscillating probe. For example, U.S. Patent No. 6,008,489, assigned to the present assignee, and cited by the Examiner in the present Office Action, illustrates a correct representation of a deflection detection scheme of an AFM.

Upon the Examiner's approval and allowance of this application, applicant will submit formal drawings incorporating the proposed changes.

Respectfully submitted

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Dated: September 6, 2002

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